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| 9. | 183rd | A Continuum on the General Clauses Act, 1897 with Special Reference to the Admissibility and Codification of External Aids to Interpretation of Statutes |

**Amendment in the Indian Evidence Act**

1310. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Evidence Act to make it more friendly to women;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be incorporated in the Act; and

(c) whether the amendments are based on the recommendations made by the Law Commission and the National Commission for Women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proviso to section 146 in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 is proposed to be inserted to the effect that in a prosecution for rape and attempt to commit rape, it shall not be permissible to put questions in the cross-examination of the prosecutrix as to her general immoral character. Further, clause (4) of section 155, which provides that when a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character, is proposed to be omitted.

A Bill on the above lines has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28.11.2002.

(c) Yes Sir.

**Decline in the profit of SCI**

†1311. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gross profit of the Shipping Corporation of India for the year 2001-2002 has decreased steeply as compared to the profit for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed it;

(c) if so, the reasons for decline in the profit and the details of the officials responsible for this; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.